

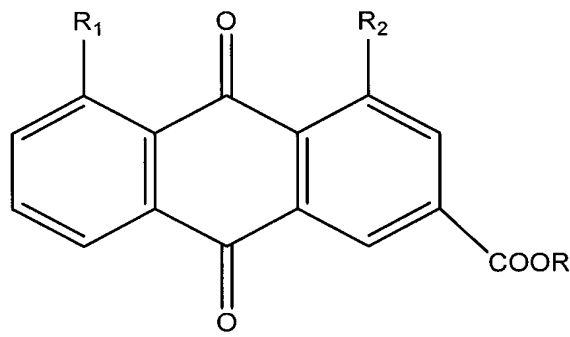
**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment ~~or prevention~~ of transplant rejection by increasing the levels of a-heme oxygenase enzyme in a human or animal subject comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of rhein or rhein derivatives,

wherein rhein and the rhein derivative are represented by the following general formula (I):



in which R represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group, or an alkaline or earth-alkaline metal atom, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, identical or different, represent a hydroxyl group or an acyloxy group of formula R' -COO- where R' is an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein the compound of formula I is rhein or diacerein.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the rhein or rhein derivative is administered at a dose of 25 to 500 mg per day.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the rhein or rhein derivative is administered per oral route.

6. – 10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the unitary dose is comprised between 25 mg and 50 mg.

12. – 14. (Canceled)